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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/680,277	KIM ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Timothy L Rude	2871	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
 All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed 02 February 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 09 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Claims

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 13-14, 16, and 19 are amended.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-19 are allowed.

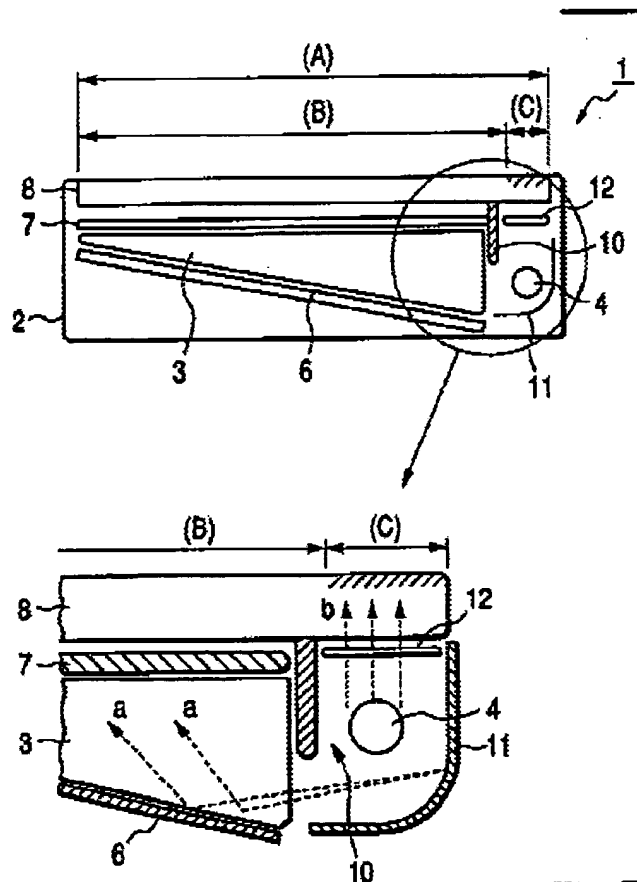
The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claim 1, relevant prior art of record did not disclose, alone or in combination, a back light unit in a liquid crystal display as claimed comprising: a light-guide plate; and a light input device for directing light substantially to a rear side of said light input device in a direction away from the light guide plate prior to directing said light to a front side thereof and toward the light guide plate to obtain high focusing of said light, wherein substantially all of said light is directed through a substantially non-solid medium, prior to being directed toward said light guide plate.

The closest combination is Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Matsushita et al (Matsushita) USPAT 6,317,177 B1, disclosing a light-guide with a substantially indirect reflective light input device and light source (lower configuration in Figure 1 of Matsushita). However, a significant amount of the light from source, 4, directly illuminates an end-portion of the light guide plate, 3, contrary to the claimed invention.

No other reference was found, with motivation to combine, to teach the claimed configuration wherein substantially all of said light is directed through a substantially non-solid medium, prior to being directed toward said light guide plate.

FIG. 1



As to claim 19, relevant prior art of record did not disclose, alone or in combination, a back light unit in a liquid crystal display as claimed comprising: a light-guide plate; and a light input device for directing a light path from a light source toward the light-guide plate, wherein the light from the light source is passed through the light input device to be incident into the light-guide plate without being incident directly to the

light-guide plate, wherein substantially all of said light is directed through a substantially non-solid medium, prior to being directed toward said light-guide plate.

The closest combination is Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Matsushita et al (Matsushita) USPAT 6,317,177 B1, disclosing a light-guide with a substantially indirect reflective light input device and light source (lower configuration in Figure 1 of Matsushita). However, a significant amount of the light from source, 4, directly illuminates an end-portion of the light guide plate, 3, contrary to the claimed invention. No other reference was found, with motivation to combine, to teach the claimed configuration wherein substantially all of said light is directed through a substantially non-solid medium, prior to being directed toward said light guide plate.

As to claims 2-18, they are directly or indirectly dependent upon claim 1 with allowable subject matter above.

References cited but not applied are relevant to the instant Application.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy L Rude whose telephone number is (571) 272-2301. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert H Kim can be reached on (571) 272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



tlr

Timothy L Rude
Examiner
Art Unit 2871



DUNG T. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER